

In the claims:

1. (previously presented) A method for use by a station in a wireless communications environment wherein multiple channels are available for communication, and wherein the station is associated with an access point, comprising the steps of:

receiving Announce messages from access points, the Announce messages being indicative of access point presence, protocol capability, and current transmission power attenuation relative to maximum possible transmission power;

periodically attempting to select at least one access point from which an Announce message was received, the selection based at least in-part on an indication that the selected access point will provide better service than the access point with which the station is currently associated, and based at least in-part on the transmission power attenuation;

sending Bid messages to the selected access point to indicate that the station desires to communicate in the wireless communications environment via the selected access point; and

receiving an Accept message from the selected access point in response to the Bid message, the Accept message being indicative that the selected access point will allow the device to communicate in the wireless communications environment via the selected access point.

2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of

sending a registration request message to the selected access point to indicate that the station desires to communicate in the wireless communications environment via the selected access point using a particular protocol;

receiving a registration acknowledge messages from the selected access point in response to the Registration Request message, the registration acknowledge message indicating that the selected access point understands that the station will communicate in the wireless communications environment using the particular protocol.

3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein a Bid message is sent by the station to the selected access point if the station ascertains that the selected access point is likely to provide better wireless communications performance than the access point through which the station is currently communicating.